

INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR REVOLUTIONARY FRONT - FREILIN

REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL OF NATIONAL RESISTANCE

To : The Group "Peace is Possible in East Timor, Lisbon

Doc. 2/87

The very simple painting which guerrillero João da Costa gave to us to offer as a gift to the group "Peace is Possible in East Timor" is not a work of art.

We did not want the 12th year of Resistance to a vile and barbarous foreign occupation to come to an end without, at least, showing in some way our deep gratitude to the group "Peace is Possible in East Timor" for its defence of the East Timor People's basic interests.

The extremely difficult conditions of struggle in which we find ourselves do not permit us to follow, step by step, the interest and concern which orientate the Group's intense work. Even so, we feel certain that the title the Group gave itself will continue to generate, on the subject of Maubere Resistance, the greatest efforts to put an end to the East Timor People's martyrdom.

The solidarity which the Group has shown on the question of East Timor has offered moral and political motivation for us to believe that, following a line of armed and political Resistance coordinated on the most varied fronts of struggle for the legitimate rights of our People, peace is possible in East Timor! We can only conceive of true peace for our country and for our People as being the result of political and diplomatic efforts towards finding a negotiated solution to the conflict and preserving, on the one hand, the interests of both Indonesia and East Timor and, on the other, maintaining the peace and stability of the region. A pretence of peace, framed with the intention of "benefiting" the people of East Timor with "autonomy" under the Pancasila regime, is not and never can be the aim of our struggle. Popular resistance to the occupation of our country established a sacred objective - the liberation of our country from foreign domination! Only a free and independence country, under a democratic pluralist system will enable the Maubere People to live in peace and to seek in that peace its road to progress and, in that true peace, to nurture and safeguard its historical identity, its cultural personality, and its religious integrity.

In the absence of the exercise of the fundamental right to self-determination - which also applies to our People - no peace is really possible ... Our people are not looking for the sham of progress when its thoughts and actions are shackled, as they now are, and our People can never accept the dishonour of denying its own identity.

There are those false prophets of peace, in East Timor, who preach the language of autonomy as the only means to preserve the People of East Timor's identity. What these false prophets want is, in exchange for an easing up of enemy repression, to bring about the actual extermination of our People in the long term. Under Portuguese domination

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the people of East Timor managed to preserve, at no small cost, and from the depths of its under-development, the roots of an identity which today, although being talked about by the defenders of our People's extermination, is being trampled upon in the direction of an unhappy future for the people of East Timor.

The armed resistance, whose ultimate objective is to guarantee the defence for our People of all aspects of its identity, cannot allow a war of genocide to stifle the cries for survival of the Maubere people. We affirm that peace in East Timor will only be possible when it is taken into account that these last 12 years of armed resistance stand to acknowledge our determination to continue to defend - to the last drop of blood - THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR! And to this end we are confident we may continue to rely on the unconditional interest of the group "Peace is Possible in East Timor".

With our highest esteem and appreciation,

OUR COUNTRY OR DEATH!

RESIST AND OVERCOME!

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES ON ALL FRONTS!

General Headquarters of the National Resistance Revolutionary Council, 15 October 1987.

President of the NRRC

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão

FALINTIL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF